

MCB pushes through setbacks to get AAVs to Marines

By Cpl. Jeremy Gadrow
Combat Correspondent

After months of organization and hard work, the first Assault Amphibious Vehicles (RAM/RS version) to be repaired at Maintenance Center Barstow in nearly three years are being prepared to roll off the lot.

More than 70 vehicles were scheduled for the Inspect and Repair Only As Necessary program, which began in February.

"Vehicles one and two are almost finished," said Jose Rivera, production shop planner. "We ran into a lot of problems with the first three vehicles because we hadn't worked on them in so long. Testing equipment and specialized tools were still in storage, and many people who used to work on the vehicles were gone."

The few workers with AAV experience still employed at the Maintenance Center

were used to train newly hired mechanics how to work on the vehicles, Rivera explained.

Teams of workers, each centered around a department specialist were created. The specialists were personnel who had worked on the vehicles in the past and were particularly knowledgeable in certain areas. After the teams were created, the process took off and began working much more smoothly.

From start to finish, many different processes must be completed before the vehicles are ready to return to the customer. The entire suspension system had to be rebuilt, engines and transmissions had to be tested, cracks needed welding, electrical systems needed testing and many more problems needed to be addressed.

The process begins in the pre-stripping

See AAV Page 5



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Gadrow

A nearly complete Amphibious Assault Vehicle is staged and ready for inspection right where its journey began in the pre-stripping section at Maintenance Center Barstow. If the vehicle passes the thorough inspection, it will then be shipped to the customer.

Defense officials answer BRAC list questions

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense Department leaders appeared before the Base Realignment and Closure Commission Monday to explain why certain military facilities were not included among Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's May 13 recommendations. Commissioners were back here to continue their deliberations after visiting military bases around the country in recent weeks being considered for closure or realignment.

Michael Wynne, deputy undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, provided details on several bases in question. Wynne said Marine Corps

Recruit Depot San Diego, one of two maintained by the Corps - the other is at Parris Island, S.C. - was considered but not recommended for closure because closing the center would compromise the Corps' "geocentric recruiting, shipping and recruit training command and control." Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. William L. Nyland agreed, arguing that the Marine Corps, despite being the smallest military force, needs two training sites because it "recruits more men and women per percentage of total force than any of the other services."

"We have to have a steady flow of these great young men and women to support the Marines' combat forces. Having two depots allows that," he said. The general also

added "the return on our investment would not be realized for over 100 years" if the service had only a single recruit depot.

Commission members also questioned why Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was left off the secretary's list. Wynne said the facility was among four naval shipyards analyzed for closure, but added military judgment favored keeping the base open because of its "strategic location and multiplatform capabilities."

Other Navy facilities scrutinized by the commission included the Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine, and the Broadway Complex in San Diego. Wynne said consideration was given to close the Brunswick base completely. However, the base was kept open due to its strategic

presence in the northeastern United States and for its surge capabilities. The Broadway Complex, he explained, "is in the right location to best service the fleet within the San Diego confines."

Wynne said the Navy also examined alternatives for an East Coast master jet base. The decision was between Moody Air Force Base, Ga., appeared as a "feasible alternative," he said, but the base had a number of factors that made it less desirable, including "significant one-time military construction costs."

The Navy decided to retain Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., because it was the "most suitable option," Wynne noted. He said the department had considered building a new 21st Century master jet base, but

such action would occur "outside the BRAC window and BRAC timeframe."

Added Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Robert F. Willard, "Moody is a World War II vintage air base. About a half billion dollars in military construction would be required there. Sharing Moody with the Air Force with the inability to bring the entire wing from Oceana there is not a cost effective alternative," he said. In addition, the admiral pointed out Oceana provides a significant advantage because it's close to the naval fleet berthed in nearby Norfolk Va. "We felt strongly that any alternative would have to continue to serve the fleet from a

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ICE

Job well done

-2-

Sun

Unseen danger

-4-

Transformer

Mobile Command Post

-7-

F&ESD

Hazmat Training

-8 & 9-

Check out the Marine Corps Web site:

<http://www.usmc.mil>
or MCLB Barstow at:
<https://www.bam.usmc.mil/>

ICE

Comments, questions or concerns filed with the base Interactive Customer Service Evaluation system are automatically routed to the service provider and the service provider can respond directly.

To access the ICE Web site, visit the MCLB Barstow Web site at

www.mclbonline.barstow.usmc.mil and click the ICE logo.

Customer Comments:

Public Works Division

Joseph Lloren is the project manager for the roof replacement at MCLB Warehouse 401, Yermo.

The discovery of a hidden condition could have become a huge loss for the government and contractor alike had it not been for Mr. Lloren's fast and intelligent handling of the problem. In 25 years of doing business with the fed-

eral government I have never seen such fantastic support. Mr. Lloren should be commended for his wisdom and quick actions and be rewarded with a bonus for the money he saved taxpayers. Hats off to Mr. Lloren.

Business Performance Office

Karen Gray did an outstanding job of not only putting together a very professional brief for Congressman McKeon's visit on July 7 but also in presenting it. We need more people like Karen!

Human Resources Office/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

I would like to thank HRO and EEOC staff for doing such a great job with the influx of new hires. They deserve our thanks from Maintenance Center and our country for providing us with so many new hires in such a short time. I know that they all put in long hours with limited resources to complete the task. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication to serving our nation. Keep up the good work and our hats are off to you all from AFGE Local 1482.

Chaplain's Corner

Despite our handicaps

By Lt. j.g. Tavis Long
Base Chaplain

Frances "Fanny" Jane Crosby was born on March 24, 1820, into a small family in the town of Southeast, Putnam County, New York. At just six weeks old, "Fanny" contracted a cold, which caused the inflammation of her eyes. The trusted family doctor was unavailable at the time, so the Crosby's called for the closest doctor available. This complete stranger came to the Crosby home and in a noble effort to treat the infant, prescribed the use of hot poultices, to be placed on the eyes to sooth the pain.

However, the hot poultices, instead of soothing the inflammation, burned her eyes even more and destroyed her eyesight. From six weeks old, Fanny was completely blind. The doctor, so devastated over what had happened, left town and was never heard of again.

Then tragedy struck again in the Crosby household. Before Fanny turned one year old, her father passed away leaving only her and her mother to fend for themselves. But, Fanny refused to let any of these setbacks affect her; and she

never allowed anyone to pity her handicap. At nine years of age, she began writing poetry, celebrating her blindness:

"Oh what a happy soul I am,

Although I cannot see;
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy,
That other people don't;

To weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot, and I won't."

Fanny and her mother moved in with a Mrs. Hawley and it was Mrs. Hawley who began to educate Fanny. Mrs. Hawley began with teaching Fanny the Scriptures and after one year, Fanny had memorized by heart the entire Four Gospels and much of the first five books of the Old Testament.

But, Fanny still had a longing to receive

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Chapel Services

Protestant
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
505 E. Mt. View
Barstow
Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Misa En Espanol
9:30, 11:30 a.m. English

Jewish Services
Call 252-0148 for information on scheduled services.

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Rob Jackson

Richard Halstenberg, heavy mobile equipment helper, tightens the bolts on a landing leg of an MK-17 trailer. Halstenberg has been employed at Maintenance Center Barstow for nearly eight months and said he enjoys feeling the pride that goes into his work.

Barstow Log

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Steven J. Thompson, Commanding Officer

Public Affairs Staff

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Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Public Affairs Support Clerk: Bertie Dailey

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BARSTOW LOG is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. **BARSTOW LOG** is produced at Aerotech News in Lancaster, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs

Important Ticket Information

Information Tickets and Tours tickets are required to be purchased for the express use of the eligible customers and their guests. Vendors have the authority to request proof of military authorized ID cards from anyone with a military ticket and/or voucher.

Customers giving military tickets as gifts run the risk of having that person denied entry at the gate and the tickets confiscated and/or required to pay the difference of the military discount and gate price before admission will be permitted.

Most parks require a 1 to 5 ratio or one valid military ID present for every five military tickets being used.

The Commander of the Navy has published this Disneyland Alert: "The Disneyland Admission staff has been instructed to ask guests with a military discount ticket for appropriate identification upon entering. At least one person in the group should have a valid military I.D. or a government I.D. The discount ticket is a military employee benefit, thus government employees must be employed by the military. U.S. Postal employees, contractors or U.S. Border Patrol employees ARE NOT ELIGIBLE for the military program."

Identity Theft Scams

In the past few weeks, identity theft scams using Navy Federal Credit Union, eBay, myPay and other official logos have been e-mailed to Marines around the world.

Legitimate companies do not request such information, and such requests are almost always attempts at identity theft.

Treat all requests for personal information as illegal attempts to steal. Check the Federal Trade Commission Web site for a summary on how to spot and what to do about identity theft at www.consumer.gov/idtheft/.

For additional assistance, contact Capt. Aniela Syzmanski, staff judge advocate, at 577-6874.

Leave Sharing Program

Anthony T. Edwards and

Sondra J. Thomas, Fleet Support Division, have been affected by medical emergencies.

Anyone desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing Program, may do so by obtaining a leave donor application form through their division's administrative officer.

For more information, contact Monique Brown, Fleet Support Division, at 577-7774.

Final Swim Lessons

MCCS has scheduled its final swim lesson of the summer for August 1-12. Classes are being offered in aquababy, tiny tots, beginner, beginner advanced and intermediate.

The lessons consists of 10, 45-minute classes. The cost is \$20 per child, \$35 for two children, \$55 for three, four for \$70 or five for \$90.

Sign ups will be taken at the Family Pool, Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Payments must be made no later than July 29.

For more information, call 577-6817/6971.

Rodeo Queen Competition

The Barstow Rodeo Group is looking for girls to compete for the titles of "Barstow Rodeo Stampede Queen," ages 17 to 23 years, "Barstow Rodeo Stampede Miss Teen," ages 13 to 16 years, and "Barstow Rodeo Stampede Little Miss," ages eight to 12 years. The event is open to all females in the High Desert area. The judging categories in this competition will be modeling, horsemanship, speech, personal interview and impromptu questions.

The deadline for applications is 10 a.m. Aug. 6.

For more information or to request an application, contact Connie Wessel, Barstow Rodeo Group, at 252-3093.

CWRA Trip

The Civilian Welfare Recreation Association is scheduled to take a trip to the J. Paul Getty Museum, July 30.

It is an opportunity to see one of the world's largest collections

Sempertoons

Created by Staff Sgt. Charles Wolf
USMC Active



of paintings, classical antiquities, bronze and marble sculptures, photography and more. The group will leave from the Main Gate Yermo Annex at 6:30 a.m. and return by 10:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 and is non-refundable. It is open to everyone.

For more information, call Vince Chavez at 577-7580.



Myths and Facts

Myth: My supervisor will not be prepared and equipped to fairly and objectively rate my performance, and will not be held accountable for exercising his responsibility under NSPS.

Fact: Supervisors and managers will have an important role in determining performance-based pay increases. The flexibilities proposed in the NSPS regulations bring with them an increased need for accountability. This includes employee accountability for performance, as well as supervisory and managerial accountability for the proper exercise of the authorities of NSPS. Extensive training will be given to supervisors and managers, both military and civilian. Training will focus on improving skills needed for effective performance management: setting clear expectations; communicat-

ing with employees; and linking individual expectations to the goals and objectives of the organization. Supervisors and managers will be held accountable for how effectively they use the tools provided by NSPS. They will also be subject to the pay and performance provisions of the system, and their pay will be affected by how well they perform their duties as supervisors and managers.

Insurance

In accordance with California law and Base Order P5500.13, all personnel operating a motor vehicle are required to maintain automobile insurance. The insurance must be in the driver's name and must coincide with the vehicle. Access aboard MCLB Barstow will not be granted if the driver is not named in the insurance policy.

The operator, if not the owner of the vehicle, must be able to present authorization from the owner to operate the vehicle aboard MCLB. This rule applies to the request for a DoD decal, temporary pass, or visitor pass.

Physicals

The Branch Medical Clinic will be providing school and sports physicals August 1, 5, 8 and 12. All children entering kindergarten, or who are new to the

state, are required to have a documented physical within 12 months of the start of the school year. Children participating in school sports will also be required to have a physical exam.

To accommodate this annual rush, parents are encouraged to make an appointment now for one of the dates mentioned. Parents must provide the child's immunization record and all school forms to be filled out. Given the expected number of examinations, only children without complex medical problems will be seen on these days. Acutely ill or patients with multiple medical concerns will be asked to schedule an appointment with their primary care provider.

To schedule your child's physical with the clinic, please call 577-6491 ext 103. Point of contact for this is Lt. Cmdr. George Cullen, NC, USN.

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community.

Submissions should be received Thursdays before noon for consideration in next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Exposure to sun may cause skin damage, cancer

By Cpl. Jeremy Gadrow
Combat Correspondent

Everyone needs sun exposure. It is the primary source of vitamin D, which helps people absorb calcium for stronger, healthier bones. But too much sun can have a negative effect.

Prolonged, unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays is dangerous and can cause many unwanted conditions such as skin damage, eye damage, immune system suppression and even cancer, said Ensign Gregory Monk, physician's assistant.

As the sun radiates light to Earth, three types of invisible UV rays are sent through the atmosphere, which only two types reach the Earth; UVA and UVB.

When UVA rays reach the skin, they cause skin aging and wrinkling and contribute to skin cancer, such as melanoma. Because UVA rays pass effortlessly through the ozone layer, they make up the majority of our sun exposure.

Tanning beds also use UVA rays. A UVA tan does not help protect the skin from further sun damage. It only pro-

duces color.

"Tanning beds use UVA and UVB light. It is untrue that they provide a slow tan that protects you from the effects of the sun," said Monk. "Tan skin is a sign of damaged skin."

UVB rays are also dangerous, causing sunburns, cataracts and immune system damage. They can also contribute to cancer.

"Just one severe sunburn can increase the chances of skin cancer by 50 percent," said Monk.

Ultraviolet rays react with a chemical called melanin that's found in most people's skin. Melanin is the first defense against the sun. It absorbs dangerous UV rays before they do serious skin damage. Melanin is found in different concentrations and colors, resulting in different skin colors. The lighter a person's natural skin color, the less melanin it has to absorb UV rays and protect itself. The darker the natural skin color, the more melanin it has to protect itself.

"People with fair skin, who burn easily, have multiple moles, a history of se-

vere sunburn and a family history of skin cancer are at the most risk for skin cancer," said Monk. "Other risk factors include not using sunscreen, and frequent use of tanning salons."

Not all sunlight is equal in UV concentration. The intensity of the sun's rays depends upon the time of year, as well as the altitude and latitude of the location. UV rays are strongest during summer.

With the right precautions, damage from the sun can be avoided. Some tips on sun protection are:

- Do not sunbathe.
- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the peak hours for intense sun exposure.
- When outdoors, use sunscreens rated sun protection factor 15 or higher. Apply them liberally, uniformly and frequently.
- When exposed to sunlight, wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, broad-brimmed hats, and UV-protective sunglasses.
- Do not use artificial tanning devices such as tanning beds.

- Teach children good sun protection habits at an early age. The damage that leads to adult skin cancer starts in childhood.

-Examine your skin head-to-toe, at least once every three months.

"Skin cancer prevention is most important, but detection can be life saving. If you notice changes on the skin such as a mole or abnormal lesion, such as a bump or scab, that has recently appeared or changed, rapidly grown, bleeds easily, itches or is discolored, have a doctor look at it," said Monk. "Any lesion that does not resolve by two weeks should be investigated further."

Editor's Note:

Some information for this article came from the sun safety Web site at http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/PED_7.asp?sitearea=PED.

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AAV from Page 1

section where the units are dismantled. Nearly everything but the vehicle's suspension is removed and sent to another section to determine if it needs to be repaired or replaced. Serial numbers are collected from every part to ensure all the different components stay with the same unit.

From there, the engine and transmission are sent to the engine and drive train department to be diagnosed separately.

"At diagnosis, the engine pressure, temperature, horsepower and torque is observed and repairs are made if needed," said Marty Ulibarri, the project head. "I'd say only about one out of every ten engines has to be serviced. They have held up very well."

Once the engine and transmission are working independently, they will be joined together and tested again. While the engine and transmission are being diagnosed and repaired, the hull is sent to the steam and blast department.

There, the suspension, still attached to the hull, is steamed to remove any dirt and oil. The area is then sandblasted and painted to remove and prevent rust and corrosion. When completed, the vehicle's suspension system is rebuilt.

"At the beginning of the assembly line is the suspension removal and rebuilding department," said Rivera. "The entire suspension system is taken apart, inspected for unusual wear, rebuilt and reinstalled here."

Because the vehicle's suspension system has only been in use a few years, close observation is required to make sure it is working properly Rivera explained.

Now on the assembly line, and with proper working suspension, the vehicle can begin the reassembly process. Each component, which was removed in the beginning, has now been inspected and is either repaired or replaced if it did not function properly.

The vehicle's components, such as hydraulics, electrical system and communications, are reassembled in kits. Starting from bottom to top, each kit is installed one by one.

Once everything has been assembled, the vehicle is then painted and returned to the stripping department where its metal treads are reinstalled. From there the vehicle is put through a series of functionality tests on the obstacle course. The vehicle is driven around a track and over hills then tested in the pool to determine how well it performs in amphibious situations. The craft must not leak and must reach a va-



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy Gadrow

On the assembly line, Assault Amphibious Vehicles are married with the same parts that were taken off during disassembly. Components are installed in kits beginning from the bottom of the vehicle to the top.

riety of speeds whether traveling forward or backward, and using propulsion or the treads to power it through the water. They monitor the engine's temperature during testing as well as oil pressure and countless other factors. If the vehicle passes all the tests, it is again inspected "with a fine tooth comb."

When it passes inspection, the vehicle is shipped back to the customer. If it doesn't pass, it will be

fixed and reinspected.

"This process worked very well for us in the past," said Rivera. "We're going forward everyday; never taking two steps forward and one step back."

According to Ulibarri, the hardest part of the project has been working with fresh mechanics.

"Most of the people working on this project had never worked on an AAV before," said Ulibarri.

"We've been very surprised to find that they took to it so well and have been able to do such a great job." Rivera agreed with Ulibarri adding that, "After not working on Assault Amphibious Vehicles for two years, it was hard to get set up and most of our mechanics were right off the street. They jumped right in and got the project to where it is now, and they're only doing better every day."

June Quarters of the Month

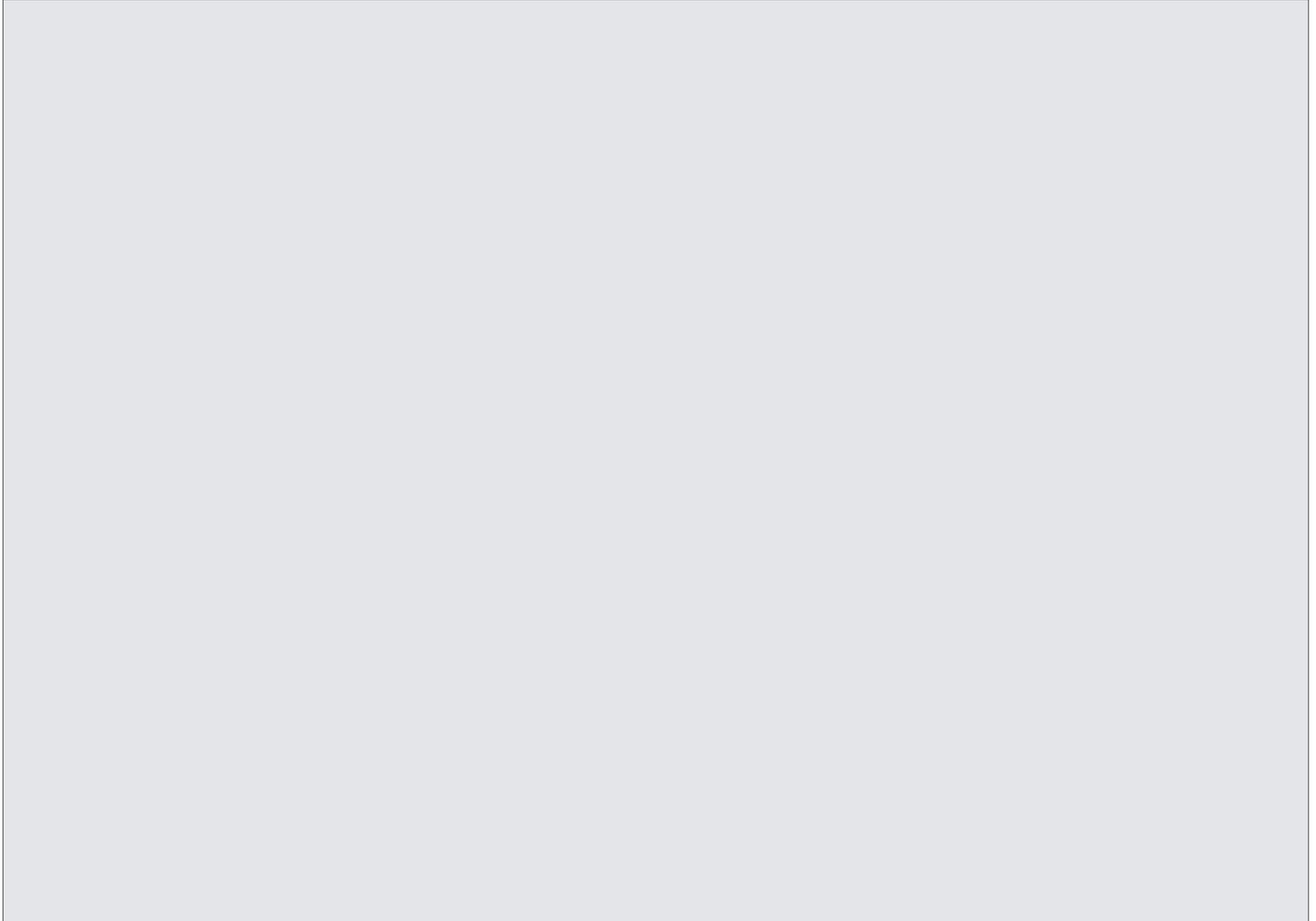


Photo by Curt Lambert

Col. Steven J. Thompson, commanding officer of MCLB Barstow recently presented Quarters of the Month awards. (Left) Richard, Justina, Shay and Jessica; spouse and daughters of Petty Officer First Class Deseriee Thomas, accepted the award for the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Quarters of the Month. (Right) Chief Warrant Officer Scott Stevens accepted the Officer Quarters of the Month.



Photo by Curt Lambert



F&ESD utilize new Mobile Command Post

By Lance Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent

Barstow's Marine Corps Logistics Base has a new toy for the military police and firefighters here. It is the Mobile Command post, and is used by the Fire and Emergency Services Division as a useful tool to help accomplish missions involving safety and public health. It also has a refrigerator inside of it, which keeps sandwiches cold during emergency situations.

The vehicle itself is 11 feet 9 inches tall, and is roughly the size of a recreational vehicle with a top speed of 90 miles per hour. It has a satellite available, which can be used for communication through telephone and fax, and acts as a television satellite for the television sets inside of the vehicle.

During emergency situations, a way to know what is going on in other parts of the country is by watching news broadcasts on television networks, said Cpl. Kristofer Hanes, physical security specialist.

The vehicle also contains a microwave, refrigerator, water dispenser, sink, plenty of storage space and air conditioning. All of these amenities are powered by a gen-

erator, which can output 12,000 watts of power.

Inside of the command post there is a portable Breathalyzer machine, which is used to test a person's blood alcohol content, said Hanes. This is what the MPs use the command post for most often, but it is in no way the only purpose of the post.

The main mission of the Mobile Command Post is to provide a place where commanders can strategize and plan during an emergency situation, where they do not have to worry about desert heat, winds or other obstacles, which could impede on the emergency solving process, Hanes said.

The command post can also be used for surveillance and record everything that the camera sees, said Capt. Rickie Dunham, MCLB fire captain. The camera is on top of a telescopic pole, which can be extended for a better view. In addition, the camera is able to see 360 degrees around the vehicle by utilizing a joystick located within the interior of the vehicle. It also has the capability of employing Infrared technology in order to see persons, places and things during low visibility situations, Dunham added.

As far as communications are con-



Photo by Lance Cpl. Nich R. Babb

The Mobile Command Post is a technologically advanced vehicle with the capability of keeping emergency services personnel communicating with other places, maintaining surveillance on an area and giving suspected drunk drivers a Breathalyzer test. The command post's interior is powered by a 12,000-watt generator, and is capable of giving commanders a comfortable place to have their on-site command post.

cerned, the presence of numerous radios and telephones increases the communications capability, said Dunham. Its fax machine will be useful also.

"Communication is the heart of any operation," said Dunham.

With access to a Mobile Command Post, emergency services aboard the base

can be more effective during emergency situations, Hanes said. The personnel on the scene of the emergency would be able to effectively communicate with other personnel and organizations during a time of crisis, said Dunham. Staying one step ahead of the bad guy is important in order to make this base safe, Hanes said.

F&ESD takes training to town

By Lance Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Fire and Emergency Services Division participated in a joint training exercise at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Barstow rail yards July 13, to hone their emergency response skills.

The training exercise was the brainchild of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company who contacted BNSF to use its rail yard for the training, said Denise Gauthier, coordinator of field safety support for BNSF Railway Company.

Despite the many uses of the training exercise, PG&E hoped to test the com-

munication as well as the protocol skills of its employees in the case of a train derailment, which resulted in a ruptured gas line, said Dan Stacey, operations specialist for PG&E.

After PG&E accomplished its tasks, it was the job of the emergency services personnel to search for survivors, as well as eliminate any poisonous gas threats or other threats to public safety.

The exercise was also a great opportunity for all persons and organizations who would respond to an accident, such as this one, to come together and get to know each

other, said Stacey.

"This is the first time, in a long time, that I've seen this many people on a drill," said Tom Fisher, transmission mechanic for PG&E.

The San Bernardino Fire Dept., Barstow Fire Dept., California Highway Patrol, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Bureau of Land Management and The Federal Railroad Administration, in addition to other safety personnel, were all present at the training site.

Assistant Fire Chief Stephen W. Mulcare said the training exercise was a success, which occurred without incident and accomplished all of the day's objectives.



Above: Members of the MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division gather around to listen to a briefing, which informed them of the current status of the situation and the goals they are to accomplish to be successful during the training exercise. The MCLB fire department was responsible for the overall safety of the men and women participating in the training exercise, as well as the decontamination of anyone who came into contact with any poisonous gases. Right: Paramedics from the San Bernardino County Fire Department were the first to arrive at the scene of the accident during the training exercise. The paramedic's job was to find any victims of the accident who were still alive and extract them from the danger area as quickly as possible. Other emergency personnel arrived at the scene not too long after, but were told to evacuate the area for a half-mile radius, because of the presence of toxic gases.





Communication was an essential part of the training exercise. With the use of two-way radios and the Mobile Command Post, emergency services personnel were able to keep a constant flow of information among all of the participants in the exercise.



Two firemen from the MCLB F&ESD set up three baby pools to accomplish a decontamination of an individual who has come into contact with hazardous material. The firefighters use a mixture of soap and water to accomplish the decontamination process. They insist on using baby pools because they are operationally effective as well as being cost effective.

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a formal education. Finally when she was 15, her desires were met and Fanny was accepted into the New York Institution for the Blind.

She spent a total of 23 years at the institution, eight as a student and 15 as a professor. Along with her academics she developed a love for music and learned to play the organ, guitar, and piano. She continued to write poetry, having two books of poetry published while on faculty.

In 1850, while at a revival service in a nearby Methodist Church, she was so moved with conviction that she went forward and consecrated her life and committed herself to the Savior. If her disposition on her blindness was already good, she became even more convinced after her conversion that her blindness was a gift from God.

Fanny began to write Christian hymns in order to express her love for the Lord. She never wrote them down, but would complete them in her mind and then dictate them to a secretary. She would

often have as many as 15 hymns in her mind before putting any down on paper. We still sing many of her hymns today. Hymns like: "To God Be the Glory", "Tell Me the Story of Jesus", "He Hideth My Soul", and "Blessed Assurance." In her life Fanny wrote over 8000 gospel hymns all the while praising the Lord for her blindness.

Fanny died in 1915 at age 95. But, before she passed away, she said this about the doctor that was responsible for her blindness: "I have not, for a moment...felt a spark of resentment against him; for I have always believed that the good Lord, in His infinite mercy, by this means consecrated me to the work that I am still permitted to do. When I remember how I have been blessed, how can I repine?"

What a testimony to one's trust and confidence in God. When I think of this story about Fanny Crosby, I cannot help but remember the story in the Gospel of John chapter 9 about the blind man who came to Jesus to be healed. When he had come to Jesus, Jesus' dis-

ciples asked was the man blind because of some sin he had committed or was it his parent's sins that made him blind?

Jesus' answer was quite interesting. He replied, "...Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest on him." (John 9:3)

In other words, the purpose of this man's blindness was to demonstrate a miracle of God. Fanny could relate first hand to that. She too realized her blindness was an opportunity for God to work in her life.

So, what is in your life that you consider to be a setback? Often our first inclination is to blame God for any trial or setback, but have you considered thanking Him for it instead; and then find a way to use that so-called setback for an opportunity to praise Him? Fanny Crosby, perhaps the greatest hymn writer known, did all of her work to the glory of God and yet she was blind.

How much more can we do for the glory of God?

BRAC from Page 1

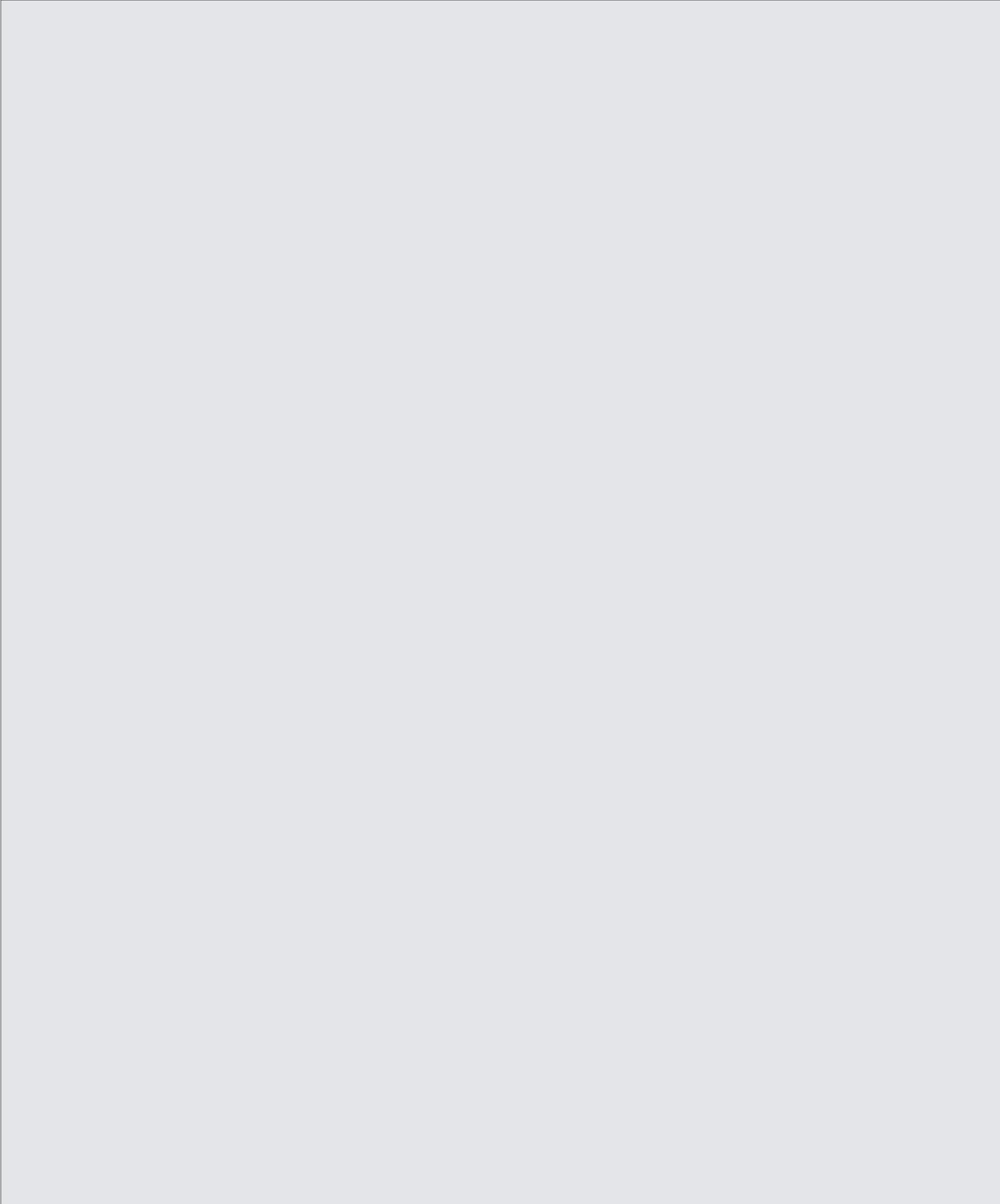
military-value standpoint effectively," he said. Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley, recently confirmed as the next Air Force chief of staff, explained the Defense Department's decision to retain Moody was a good decision. He said Moody, near the Army's Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga., will allow battlefield and expeditionary combat airmen to partner with land component forces better, and "to maximize warfighting capabilities and jointness." Wynne told the commission that "jointness was a key goal" to many of Rumsfeld's recommendations on which bases to close or realigned.

For example, he said Pope Air Force Base, N.C., was realigned rather than closed in order to support relocation of Forces Command headquarters there from Fort McPherson, Ga. He said the air base will allow for joint training opportunities between Air Force and Army personnel and provide the airlift for troops stationed at adjacent Fort Bragg, N.C.

Meanwhile, Wynne said Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., another

base the department wants to keep open, was realigned rather than closed to ensure continued strategic presence in the north-central United States and to support the department's emerging unmanned aerial vehicle mission. Wynne told the commission the secretary's recommendations will make the department "stronger, more capable and more effective." He added the department will make sure that the final recommendations are "fair, and consistent with the selection criterion and force structure plan and will in fact increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our military infrastructure."

Rumsfeld recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 other major bases out of a total of 318 bases. The nine-member commission panel must send its recommendations on closures and realignments to the president by Sept. 8. The president will have until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department.





Further your education by getting information from schools like University of Phoenix, California Career School, Park University, Southern Illinois University, Webster University, University of Maryland, Kaplan College, North Center University, Barstow Community College, and more!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by, stop by the Lifelong Learning Job and Education Fair July 28 to see what's in store for you.



Back to School Sale

Get ready for the 2005-2006 school year at the MCX. From July 22 to 31, the Exchange is offering an additional 10 percent off all school supplies. Get ahead of the game and get ready for school.

The Exchange is open Mondays through Fridays from 6:30

a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 256-8974 to find out what services the MCX has for you.

Hobby Shop Orientations

Summer is a great time to start a hobby and spend quality time with your family. Find out what the Auto Skills Center, Wood & Rock Hobby Shop, and Ceramics Center have to offer. Come by Bldg. 375 July 27 for informative orientation and safety classes. Presentations will be held at: The Auto Skills Center at 4:30 p.m., the Ceramic Studio at 5 p.m., and the Wood & Rock Hobby Shop at 5:30 p.m.

These orientations are a great way to get to know each facility. Call 577-6817 for more information about the Hobby Shops.

Important Ticket Information

Information, Tickets and Tours tickets are required to be purchased for the express use of the eligible customers and their guests. Vendors have the

authority to request proof of military authorized ID cards from anyone with a military ticket and/or voucher.

Customers giving military tickets as gifts run the risk of having that person denied entry at the gate and the tickets confiscated and/or required to pay the difference of the military discount and gate price before admission will be permitted.

Most parks require a 1 to 5 ratio or one valid military ID present for every five military tickets being used.

The Commander of the Navy has published this Disneyland Alert: "The Disneyland Admission staff has been instructed to ask guests with a military discount ticket for appropriate identification upon entering. At least one person in the group should have a valid military I.D. or a government I.D. The discount ticket is a military employee benefit, thus government employees must be employed by the military. U.S. Postal employees, contractors or U.S. Border Patrol employees ARE NOT ELIGIBLE for the military program."

MCCS Happenings

Today

- BBQ Your Own Ribs Night at the Oasis Club. Begins at 5 p.m.
- Fish Fry Night at the Family Restaurant from 4:30 to 7:30.

Friday

- Membership Appreciation Night at Oasis Club at 5 p.m.
- TGI Family Night at the Oasis and Enlisted Club begins at 5.

Saturday

- Brunch at the Enlisted Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Enlisted Club Social at 6 p.m.

Sunday

- Breakfast at the Enlisted Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Enlisted Club Social at 6 p.m.

Monday

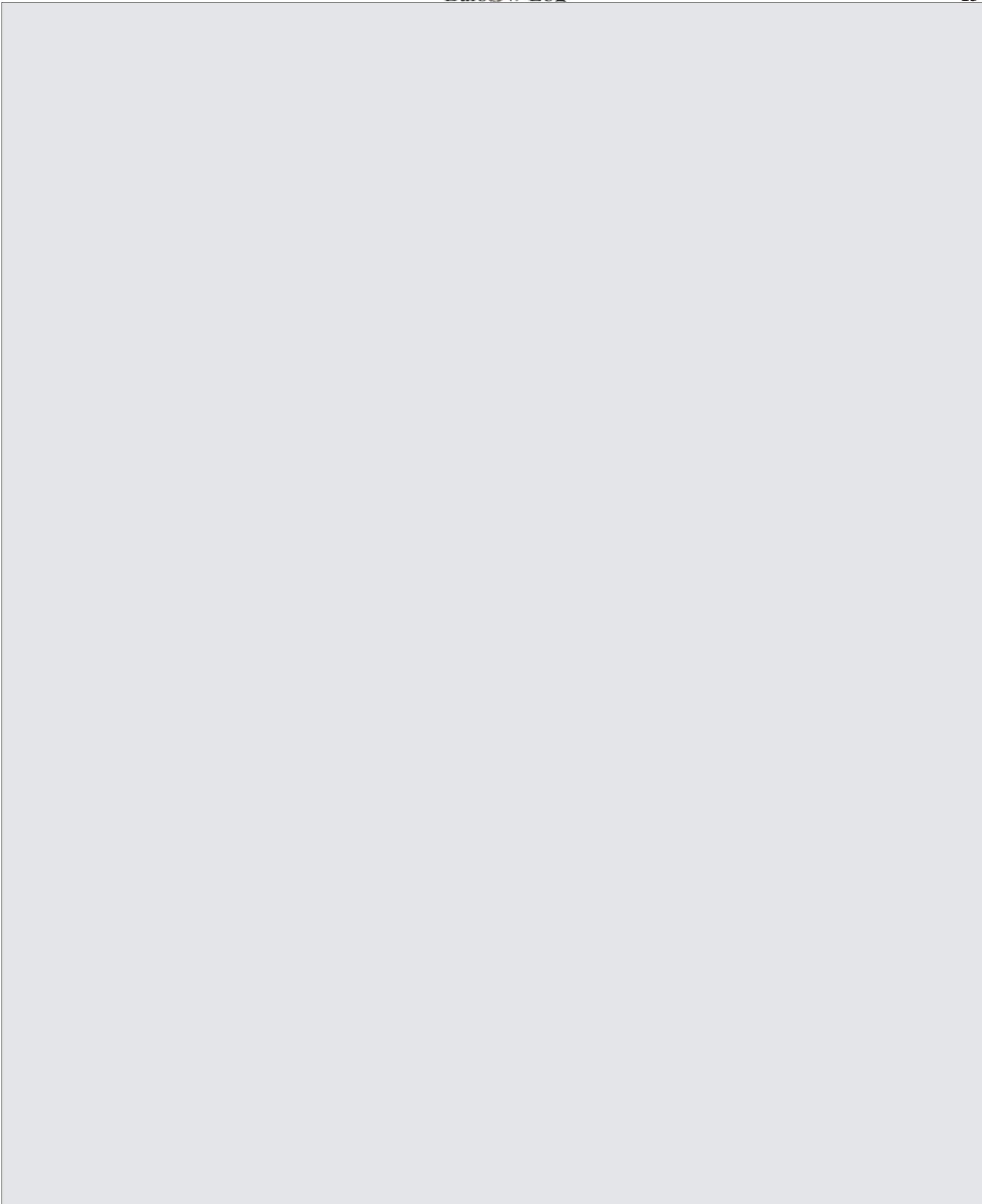
- Darts, pool and CD Music at the Enlisted Club beginning at 5
- Membership Appreciation Night at the Oasis Club.

Tuesday

- Burn Your Own Steak Night at the Oasis Club. Begins at 5 p.m.

Wednesday

- Burn Your Own Steak Night at the Enlisted Club at 5 p.m.



2004 YAMAHA: TTR 225 with a Big Gun race series exhaust, \$3000, approx.10 hours use. Contact SSgt Woods cell 909 921-1789.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dining room set, four chairs and table, \$200 OBO. Call 895-7370.

